



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 05 2017

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Vito Fiore
General Manager
Columbian Chemicals Company, Inc.
370 Columbian Chemicals Lane
Centerville, Louisiana 70522

Re: Notice and Finding of Violation under Section 113(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act
Columbian Chemicals Company, Inc. / Aditya Birla

Dear Mr. Fiore:

On November 17, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") conducted a Clean Air Act ("CAA" or the "Act") inspection on and around Columbian Chemicals Company, Inc.'s / Aditya Birla's ("Columbian's") carbon black manufacturing facility located at 370 Columbian Chemicals Lane, Centerville, Louisiana ("North Bend Facility"), pursuant to section 114 of the Clean Air Act, for the purpose of determining whether Columbian "is in violation of any [] standard or any requirement" of the Act and/or its state implementation plan ("SIP"). If violations are found on such an inspection, such violations are subject to enforcement pursuant to Section 113 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413, which provides for the assessment of civil penalties and/or the initiation of a civil action.

As a result of the EPA's review of information gathered on the November 17, 2016 inspection, through CAA section 114(a) information requests, and through state file reviews, the EPA has concluded that Columbian's North Bend Facility is not in compliance with certain requirements of CAA, specifically: the requirements in the federally enforceable Louisiana SIP and the Title V permit for the North Bend Facility that require opacity of no more than 20%, the requirements of the Title V permit for the North Bend Facility that require a six-minute opacity reading in accordance with EPA Reference Method 9 in the event visual emissions are detected and associated recordkeeping requirements, and the requirement to not exceed a PM/PM₁₀ emission rate of 4.91 and 1.64 lbs per hour for PM/PM₁₀ emissions at the north dryer stack (EQT034) and south dryer stack (EQT018), respectively. Enclosed is a Notice and Finding of

Violation ("NOV") issued to Columbian for violations of the CAA and the Louisiana SIP at the North Bend Facility pursuant to section 113(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a).

The EPA is concerned about the potential adverse environmental and public health impacts to the surrounding community resulting from the excess opacity levels and emissions detailed in the enclosed NOV. Based on our August 2, 2011 and November 17, 2016 inspection, and satellite imagery, we are concerned that Columbian has persistent issues with opacity and persistent failure to conduct Method 9 observations, in accordance with its permit requirements. Moreover, we understand from the on-site records review at the Facility and our follow-up discussions with Columbian personnel on November 17, 2016 that over the past five years, there was only a single instance in 2012 in which Columbian took a Method 9 reading.

Please note the opportunity to confer outlined in the NOV. We note that we already have a meeting scheduled with Columbian on January 11, 2017; however, we would be happy to meet on an additional date, if necessary. Any requests should be directed to Kellie Ortega at (202) 564-5529.

The United States is in the process of reviewing other information gathered pursuant to the November 17, 2016 inspection, including the materials submitted by Columbian on December 15, 2016, and may supplement this communication at a future date.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Brooks, Director
Air Enforcement Division

Enclosure

Cc: Celena Cage, Administrator
Enforcement Division
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Cc (via email): David Buente, Sidley Austin LLP
Benjamin Tannen, Sidley Austin LLP
Elias Quinn, U.S. Department of Justice
Steve Thompson, EPA Region 6
Carlos Evans, EPA Region 6
Kellie Ortega, EPA Air Enforcement Division